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Minnesota

Minnesota Labor Market Review

May 1991

Job Market Continues to Weaken, Despite Some Growth Industries

The impacts of a national recession are beginning to be felt throughout more of Minnesota's economy. Seasonally-adjusted, the number of jobs fell for the second month in a row, and have now dropped for four of the last five months. But the nature of the downturn is changing. In February, large job layoffs at a few large firms were responsible for most of the decline. In March, the losses were more widespread, with net jobs down in five of the seven major industry groups.

Measured by the number of payroll jobs (not total employment), Minnesota's economy appears to have peaked last October. The losses since then offset the gains made in the preceding half-year, so that now Minnesota has roughly the same job level as it did in March 1990. This lack of any growth bests the nation, however, where there are .7% fewer jobs than last year this time. Like the rest of the Midwest, Minnesota has benefitted -- in a relative sense -- from a manufacturing base that is highly competitive and export-oriented, and from less commercial overbuilding.

Current Labor Force Estimates

	Minnesota (In Thousands)			% Change From		United States (In Thousands)			% Change From	
	Mar 91	Feb 91	Mar 90	Feb 91	Mar 90	Mar 91	Feb 91	Mar 90	Feb 91	Mar 90
Labor Force	2436.2	2394.6	2,348.8	1.7	3.7	124,443	124,070	123,789	0.3	0.5
Employment	2298.6	2237.6	2,219.1	2.7	3.6	115,639	115,151	117,093	0.4	-1.2
Unemployment	137.7	157.0	129.7	-12.3	6.2	8,804	8,919	6,697	-1.3	31.5
Actual Unemp. Rate	5.7	6.6	5.5	-	-	7.1	7.2	5.4	-	-
Seasonally Adj. Rate	-	-	-	-	-	6.8	6.5	5.3	-	-

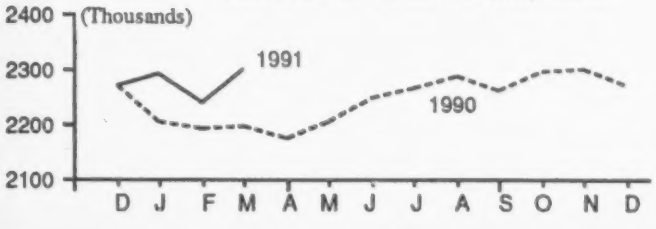
The state's performance is better seen in its unemployment rate. It has fluctuated wildly the first three months of 1991, partly from sampling aberration, going from 5.4% in January to 6.6% in February to 5.7% in March. A better measure, the 1991 first quarter average of 5.9%, is higher than 5.2% for the same period in 1990. The comparable U.S. figures are 6.5% and 5.3%, respectively. Our state labor markets have gotten tighter in the last year, but not as much as most other parts of the country did.

Minnesota has five clusters of industries where job creation has continued. During the past year, 6,900 jobs were added in health care and 6,000 more in education. This growth cuts across many kinds of health care and educational organizations -- local, state, private and public. In addition, local units of government have added 2,400 jobs in administration, private social service organizations contributed 2,800 more, and the food industry (processing and food stores) chipped in 2,700. Unfortunately, they have only managed to offset the losses emanating particularly from construction, most manufacturing, and parts of wholesaling, retailing, transportation and business services.

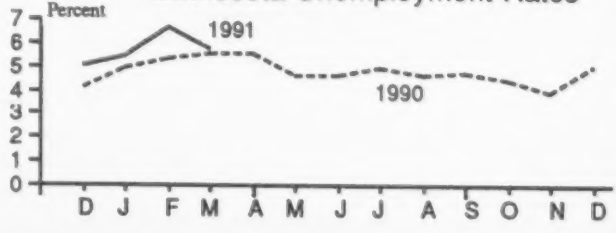
By Don Hilber

Minnesota Employment and Unemployment Rates - 1990 and 1991

Minnesota Total Employment



Minnesota Unemployment Rates



Minnesota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	2,087.3	2,081.4	2,086.9	0.3	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	451.5	449.7	467.3	0.4	-3.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	7.5	7.2	7.4	4.1	1.3	643.25	610.53	41.5	43.3	15.50	14.10
Metal Mining	6.3	6.2	6.1	1.9	3.7	669.29	629.84	42.2	43.8	15.86	14.38
Construction	61.0	60.5	65.2	0.9	-6.4	642.53	618.46	36.8	37.1	17.46	16.67
Manufacturing	382.9	382.0	394.7	0.2	-3.0	453.77	447.60	39.7	40.0	11.43	11.19
Durable Goods	216.1	215.2	229.9	0.4	-6.0	465.92	460.89	40.2	40.5	11.59	11.38
Lumber and Furniture	20.8	20.4	21.9	1.6	-5.2	450.69	495.38	36.2	37.7	12.45	13.14
Stone, Clay and Glass	7.0	7.0	7.5	-0.4	-6.7	481.18	463.65	40.3	40.6	11.94	11.42
Primary Metals	6.1	6.1	6.4	-0.4	-5.7	452.02	442.26	38.8	40.5	11.65	10.92
Fabricated Metals	33.5	32.5	34.4	3.0	-2.6	500.21	481.43	40.9	41.9	12.23	11.49
Industrial Machinery	73.6	73.6	79.2	0.0	-7.0	508.38	468.33	41.5	40.2	12.25	11.65
Office and Computing	32.2	32.1	36.2	0.0	-11.1	549.92	468.52	44.6	40.6	12.33	11.54
Electronic Equipment	29.1	29.4	30.0	-1.3	-3.0	393.31	410.02	40.8	41.5	9.64	9.88
Transportation Equipment	8.1	8.2	11.2	-0.9	-28.0	459.93	546.12	38.2	42.9	12.04	12.73
Instruments and Related	32.3	32.2	33.2	0.2	-2.8	449.36	438.43	41.0	41.4	10.96	10.59
Misc. Manufacturing	5.8	5.8	6.2	-0.8	-6.8	388.21	404.25	37.4	37.5	10.38	10.78
Nondurable Goods	166.9	166.8	164.8	0.0	1.3	439.88	429.94	39.1	39.3	11.25	10.94
Food & Beverage Products	47.6	47.3	46.2	0.5	3.0	394.45	375.39	38.9	38.7	10.14	9.70
Textiles & Apparel	4.7	4.8	4.6	-1.5	1.6	284.69	289.57	35.9	35.4	7.93	8.18
Paper Products	34.4	34.3	33.5	0.3	2.7	571.27	560.10	42.6	42.4	13.41	13.21
Printing and Publishing	52.3	52.5	51.7	-0.3	1.2	412.14	419.25	36.7	37.5	11.23	11.18
Chemicals and Petroleum	11.4	11.3	11.7	0.9	-2.9	550.25	537.60	40.4	42.0	13.62	12.80
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	16.5	16.6	17.0	-0.9	-3.2	421.43	396.32	40.6	40.9	10.38	9.69
Service Producing	1,635.8	1,631.7	1,619.6	0.3	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp., Comm., & Util.	106.8	106.7	107.4	0.1	-0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	72.7	72.7	73.2	-0.1	-0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	26.0	26.1	26.5	-0.2	-1.6	370.97	407.59	31.2	33.3	11.89	12.24
Communication & Utilities	34.1	33.9	34.3	0.7	-0.3	616.46	597.14	38.1	38.5	16.18	15.51
Trade	499.2	497.8	503.7	0.3	-0.9	245.65	231.66	28.9	28.6	8.50	8.10
Wholesale	122.1	122.0	124.6	0.1	-2.0	422.61	400.03	37.3	36.7	11.33	10.90
Retail	377.1	375.8	379.1	0.3	-0.5	194.78	181.83	26.5	26.2	7.35	6.94
Building Materials	16.8	16.4	16.8	2.1	0.0	324.51	330.62	35.7	36.9	9.09	8.96
General Merchandise	53.5	54.3	56.1	-1.5	-4.6	194.54	171.50	25.2	24.5	7.72	7.00
Food Stores	53.8	53.7	52.5	0.1	2.4	221.05	188.05	27.7	26.3	7.98	7.15
Automotive	42.8	42.4	42.9	1.0	-0.2	287.62	291.38	33.6	34.2	8.56	8.52
Apparel	19.2	19.2	19.8	0.2	-2.8	128.01	128.79	21.3	21.5	6.01	5.99
Home Furnishings	14.8	14.9	15.4	-0.3	-3.6	284.09	270.83	32.1	31.9	8.85	8.49
Eating and Drinking	126.3	125.0	126.2	1.1	0.1	127.23	114.70	22.4	22.1	5.68	5.19
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	124.3	124.1	123.8	0.2	0.4						
Finance	56.8	56.6	56.7	0.4	0.2						
Insurance	47.0	47.0	46.3	0.0	1.6						
Real Estate	20.5	20.5	20.8	0.0	-1.6						
Services	556.7	552.6	542.9	0.7	2.5						
Personal Services	25.7	25.6	25.4	0.2	1.1						
Business Services	92.5	91.8	91.0	0.7	1.5						
Repair Services	23.7	23.7	23.6	0.3	0.8						
Health Services	170.8	169.9	164.5	0.5	3.8						
Nursing Homes	43.8	43.6	43.4	0.3	0.8						
Hospitals	57.5	57.1	55.1	0.7	4.2						
Legal Services	16.0	16.0	15.5	0.1	2.9						
Private Education	35.6	34.8	34.7	2.1	2.5						
Government	348.8	350.6	341.7	-0.5	2.1						
Federal	33.7	33.7	35.1	0.2	-3.8						
State	86.0	88.4	84.5	-2.6	1.8						
Education	49.1	51.3	47.5	-4.2	3.4						
Local	229.0	228.6	222.1	0.2	3.1						
Education	125.8	125.0	122.3	0.7	2.9						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA

March Data Shows Continuing Weakness Despite Lower Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for the Minneapolis St. Paul metropolitan area decreased to 4.8% in March, a drop of 0.7% of a percentage point from the February rate. The March unemployment rate was 0.4% of a percentage point above the rate of a year ago. March's level appears to be more in line with the trend of past months during which the jobless rate has been running about half a percentage point higher that a year ago. Thus, the large jump in the February jobless rate appears to have been an atypical occurrence caused by the combination of several large layoffs, and the statistical limitations of an estimating methodology which can cause pronounced month-to-month changes in the unemployment rate.

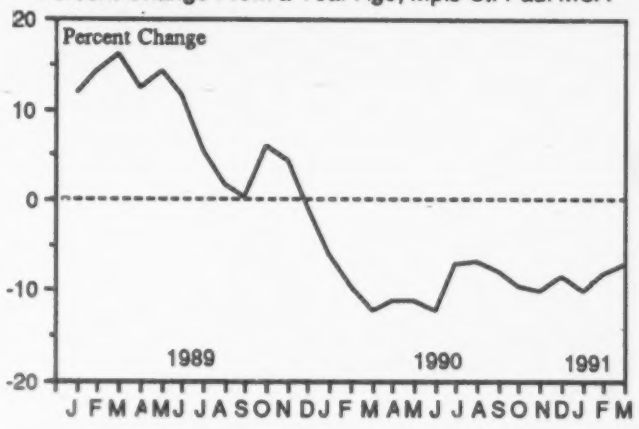
Last month we suggested that while the worst of the recession might be behind us, it will take time for employment to recover. The March nonfarm payroll job survey of area business shows that job retrenchment is continuing ,but at a somewhat reduced rate. After adjusting for seasonality, there was moderate job loss in all industries, except for manufacturing and finance, both of which registered small gains. There is some hope that seasonal construction will rebound if new residential construction follows the lead of improved sales of existing homes. The upturn in manufacturing employment was mostly due to the settlement of a labor dispute. In addition, there were callbacks in the construction-related lumber and wood products industry which provide additional signs of optimism.

Two sets of data which will bear following in upcoming months for some signs of increased demand for labor, will be average weekly hours, and employment in personnel supply services (see graph below). As the demand for labor increases, employers will probably extend work hours and pay overtime before hiring additional workers. Alternatively, employers may hire temporary workers as they need them. This hiring will show up on the payroll of the personnel supply service establishments. While the personnel supply service industry is not ordinarily published in the table on page 4, we will periodically publish the graph.

By Bruce Steuernagel

Personnel Supply Service Industry Jobs

Percent Change From a Year Ago, Mpls-St. Paul MSA



Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990
Mpls-St. Paul	1,349,643	1,315,217	1,319,889	68,530	76,156	61,161	4.8	5.5	4.4
REGION 11	1,267,837	1,234,896	1,238,388	60,426	67,446	54,758	4.5	5.2	4.2
Anoka	130,401	127,003	127,362	7,727	8,781	6,911	5.6	6.5	5.1
Carver	24,298	23,665	23,731	1,335	1,515	1,257	5.2	6.0	5.0
Dakota	142,802	139,081	139,474	7,562	8,470	6,365	5.0	5.7	4.4
Hennepin	599,935	584,302	585,955	25,263	27,986	23,861	4.0	4.6	3.9
Ramsey	268,283	261,291	262,031	12,056	13,330	10,989	4.3	4.9	4.0
Scott	28,728	27,879	28,058	2,092	2,420	1,882	6.8	8.0	6.6
Washington	73,490	71,575	71,777	4,391	4,944	3,393	5.6	6.5	4.5
Chisago	14,019	13,854	13,882	1,530	1,726	1,487	9.8	11.2	9.8
Isanti	11,870	11,561	11,594	1,119	1,249	1,006	8.6	9.8	8.0
Wright	32,468	31,622	31,711	3,124	3,606	2,894	8.8	10.2	8.4
St. Croix, WI	23,350	23,486	24,282	2,331	2,125	1,006	9.1	8.3	4.0
Bloomington	56,244	54,776	54,933	2,195	2,451	2,110	3.8	4.3	3.7
Minneapolis	197,847	192,691	193,236	9,186	10,243	8,788	4.4	5.0	4.3
St. Paul	138,327	134,722	135,103	7,458	8,214	6,741	5.1	5.7	4.8

Twin Cities Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT 1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS & HOURS & EARNINGS 2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Mar. 1990
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	1,347.7	1,343.3	1,352.6	0.3	-0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goods Producing	290.7	289.0	304.9	0.6	-4.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.5	0.4	0.5	10.9	2.9	671.16	643.59	40.8	39.9	16.45	16.13
Construction	39.8	39.6	42.6	0.6	-6.5	687.42	654.47	36.8	36.4	18.68	17.98
Manufacturing	250.4	249.0	261.8	0.6	-4.4	481.19	472.35	39.9	40.2	12.06	11.75
Durable Goods	145.7	144.2	158.0	1.1	-7.8	495.71	481.14	40.4	40.5	12.27	11.88
Lumber and Furniture	8.1	7.8	9.2	3.9	-12.0	496.65	546.10	35.5	37.2	13.99	14.68
Stone, Clay and Glass	2.3	2.3	2.5	-1.2	-8.9	476.97	494.36	39.0	39.9	12.23	12.39
Primary Metals	4.4	4.4	4.6	-0.8	-5.1	446.98	429.20	38.8	40.3	11.52	10.65
Fabricated Metals	25.4	24.3	26.2	4.7	-2.8	535.10	492.71	42.3	41.3	12.65	11.93
Industrial Machinery	51.1	51.0	56.5	0.3	-9.6	536.11	499.38	40.4	40.6	13.27	12.30
Office and Computing	20.8	20.8	25.1	0.1	-16.9	614.43	565.04	41.6	43.1	14.77	13.11
Electronic Equipment	18.1	18.2	18.8	-0.4	-3.9	411.89	410.84	40.5	40.2	10.17	10.22
Transportation Equipment	3.2	3.2	5.8	1.7	-44.4	655.27	689.34	42.8	43.3	15.31	15.92
Instruments and Related	29.1	29.1	30.3	0.2	-3.7	462.97	458.55	41.3	41.8	11.21	10.97
Misc. Manufacturing	4.0	4.0	4.1	-0.8	-3.4	431.05	444.99	37.0	37.3	11.65	11.93
Nondurable Goods	104.7	104.8	103.8	-0.1	0.8	462.95	458.93	39.3	39.7	11.78	11.56
Food & Beverage Products	18.1	18.0	18.2	0.5	-0.3	473.69	453.81	40.8	40.7	11.61	11.15
Paper Products	26.2	26.2	25.7	-0.1	1.7	510.43	496.53	40.9	40.9	12.48	12.14
Printing and Publishing	37.6	37.6	36.4	0.0	3.5	422.87	444.95	36.9	37.9	11.46	11.74
Chemicals and Petroleum	9.8	9.8	9.9	0.0	-0.2	595.03	600.18	40.7	42.0	14.62	14.29
Rubber and Plastic	10.9	11.0	11.2	-1.2	-2.8	442.32	409.22	41.3	40.8	10.71	10.03
Service Producing	1,056.9	1,054.3	1,047.7	0.3	0.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transp. Comm., & Util.	74.8	74.8	76.4	0.0	-2.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	53.5	53.6	54.8	-0.1	-2.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	16.1	16.1	17.1	-0.2	-6.2	371.09	392.81	28.7	31.5	12.93	12.47
Communication & Utilities	21.3	21.3	21.6	0.0	-1.7	609.14	585.98	38.0	38.1	16.03	15.38
Trade	317.5	316.9	323.7	0.2	-1.9	277.89	262.54	29.5	29.4	9.42	8.93
Wholesale	81.3	81.3	83.8	0.1	-3.0	473.26	440.30	37.8	37.0	12.52	11.90
Retail	236.1	235.6	239.9	0.2	-1.6	218.70	208.13	27.0	27.1	8.10	7.68
Building Materials	9.6	9.4	9.9	1.8	-3.3	373.47	388.00	35.4	37.2	10.55	10.43
General Merchandise	37.4	38.1	40.3	-1.8	-7.1	218.66	189.20	26.0	24.7	8.41	7.66
Food Stores	29.6	29.6	29.1	0.0	1.7	264.41	259.35	27.4	28.5	9.65	9.10
Automotive	24.9	24.7	24.9	0.8	0.0	343.18	335.37	36.2	36.1	9.48	9.29
Apparel	12.9	12.9	13.3	0.1	-3.2	125.86	126.69	20.7	20.6	6.08	6.15
Home Furnishings	10.2	10.2	10.9	-0.4	-6.6	333.53	291.54	31.2	30.4	10.69	9.59
Eating and Drinking	80.3	79.5	80.4	1.0	-0.1	144.27	134.28	22.9	23.6	6.30	5.69
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	97.0	96.8	96.8	0.2	0.2						
Finance	41.0	40.8	41.2	0.6	-0.5						
Insurance	39.3	39.3	38.7	0.0	1.6						
Real Estate	16.7	16.7	17.0	0.0	-1.4						
Services	375.2	372.9	363.7	0.6	3.2						
Personal Services	18.3	18.2	18.0	0.2	1.4						
Business Services	79.4	79.0	78.4	0.5	1.3						
Repair Services	17.4	17.3	17.4	0.7	0.3						
Health Services	96.7	96.5	93.6	0.3	3.3						
Nursing Homes	22.6	22.8	22.8	-0.6	-0.6						
Hospitals	34.2	34.0	33.2	0.6	2.8						
Legal Services	13.1	13.1	12.5	0.1	5.2						
Private Education	19.7	19.3	18.9	2.1	4.6						
Government	192.4	192.8	187.1	-0.2	2.9						
Federal	21.1	21.2	21.7	-0.2	-2.7						
State	56.1	56.8	55.0	-1.2	2.0						
Education	32.2	32.8	31.0	-2.0	3.8						
Local	115.2	114.9	110.4	0.3	4.4						
Education	63.7	63.1	61.3	1.0	3.9						

Note: Not all industry sub-groups are shown for every major industry category.

1/ Totals may not add because of roundings.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Southern Minnesota

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990
REGION SW	25,046	24,385	23,436	1,677	1,926	1,560	6.3	7.3	6.2
Big Stone	2,806	2,749	2,705	220	247	192	7.3	8.2	6.6
Chippewa	7,618	7,409	6,670	484	553	448	6.0	6.9	6.3
Lac Qui Parle	4,155	4,052	4,009	215	256	221	4.9	5.9	5.2
Swift	4,762	4,607	4,627	403	432	355	7.8	8.6	7.1
Yellow Med.	5,705	5,568	5,425	355	438	344	5.9	7.3	6.0
REGION W	62,708	60,917	58,146	3,174	3,765	3,499	4.8	5.8	5.6
Cottonwood	6,180	5,998	5,985	377	443	307	5.7	6.9	4.9
Jackson	5,899	5,681	5,345	355	377	285	5.7	6.2	5.1
Lincoln	3,266	3,170	3,105	205	256	279	5.9	7.5	8.2
Lyon	12,963	12,587	11,972	638	803	731	4.7	6.0	5.8
Murray	4,773	4,657	4,534	321	385	418	6.3	7.6	8.4
Nobles	12,033	11,693	11,334	430	474	467	3.5	3.9	4.0
Pipestone	4,967	4,884	4,906	300	401	368	5.7	7.6	7.0
Redwood	7,697	7,454	7,367	370	426	446	4.6	5.4	5.7
Rock	4,930	4,793	4,598	178	200	198	3.5	4.0	4.1
REGION 9	111,720	108,614	106,011	6,442	7,794	6,167	5.5	6.7	5.5
Blue Earth	29,053	28,228	27,933	1,188	1,400	1,097	3.9	4.7	3.8
Brown	14,245	13,839	13,077	839	1,028	798	5.6	6.9	5.8
Faribault	7,513	7,318	7,230	641	761	711	7.9	9.4	9.0
LeSueur	10,314	10,066	9,990	1,084	1,342	976	9.5	11.8	8.9
Martin	11,525	11,255	10,695	762	881	752	6.2	7.3	6.6
Nicollet	15,860	15,409	15,248	604	706	621	3.7	4.4	3.9
Sibley	6,902	6,677	6,620	540	646	566	7.3	8.8	7.9
Waseca	10,086	9,788	9,285	484	601	382	4.6	5.8	4.0
Watonwan	6,222	6,034	5,933	300	429	264	4.6	6.6	4.3
REGION 10	226,337	220,179	214,920	12,176	13,854	12,605	5.1	5.9	5.5
Dodge	7,712	7,419	7,846	672	822	653	8.0	10.0	7.7
Fillmore	10,050	9,632	9,400	837	943	831	7.7	8.9	8.1
Freeborn	16,082	15,684	15,059	1,108	1,337	2,210	6.4	7.9	12.8
Goodhue	22,218	21,520	20,978	1,119	1,204	1,021	4.8	5.3	4.6
Houston	9,565	9,280	9,098	772	787	580	7.5	7.8	6.0
Mower	17,954	17,520	16,886	787	916	945	4.2	5.0	5.3
Olmsted	64,534	62,833	60,188	2,038	2,443	2,243	3.1	3.7	3.6
Rice	27,949	27,243	26,609	1,587	1,834	1,458	5.4	6.3	5.2
Steele	15,976	15,617	15,627	1,049	1,002	665	6.2	6.0	4.1
Wabasha	8,382	8,049	8,083	615	730	625	6.8	8.3	7.2
Winona	25,915	25,382	25,146	1,592	1,836	1,374	5.8	6.7	5.2
Rochester Cty	40,150	39,092	37,446	1,397	1,678	1,530	3.4	4.1	3.9

Rochester MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	66,400	66,182	63,553	0.3	4.5
Goods Producing	13,735	13,751	13,581	-0.1	1.1
Construction and Mining	1,941	1,950	1,824	-0.5	6.4
Manufacturing	11,794	11,801	11,757	-0.1	0.3
Durable Goods	9,898	9,883	9,954	0.2	-0.6
Nondurable Goods	1,696	1,918	1,803	-1.1	5.2
Service Producing	52,665	52,431	49,972	0.4	5.4
Transp., Comm., & Util.	1,882	1,871	1,841	0.6	2.2
Trade	13,180	13,184	12,660	0.0	4.1
Wholesale	1,598	1,601	1,578	-0.2	1.3
Retail	11,582	11,583	11,082	0.0	4.5
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,785	1,790	1,763	-0.3	1.2
Services	28,758	28,569	26,865	0.7	7.0
Health	19,403	19,344	18,091	0.3	7.3
Other Services	9,355	9,225	8,774	1.4	6.6
Government	7,060	7,017	6,843	0.6	3.2

Southern Minnesota's Job Market May Even Be Improving During The Recession

Unemployment rates remained equal to last March's or even dropped. They dropped especially in Region 10 now that Freeborn County's Farmsted Foods has reopened. Mower County's low rate probably is due to its proximity to Albert Lea and the Farmsted plant. The Rochester MSA's jobless rate dropped from 3.7% in February to 3.1% in March, nearly as low as its ever been. Last March the rate was 3.6%.

Employment, if the figures can believed, jumped 7.2% or 4,346 jobs over the year in the MSA. Last year the increase was 1.8% or 1,038 jobs.

Payroll data tells a similar, but less dramatic story. Unlike the state as a whole where the number of payroll jobs remained unchanged over the year, the Rochester MSA created 2,847 of them, a 4.5% jump. Against the last five years' March-to-March average increase of 3.3%, it was even better than business as usual.

Although construction/mining jobs increased 6.4% over the year in the MSA, and nondurable goods manufacturing added 5.2% more workers, it was the service producers that created 93% of the jobs.

Service remains the stunning success in the MSA. It forged ahead with 1,893 new jobs, a 7.0% leap over last March. All but 518 of them were in health services. Retail trade added 500 new jobs (up 4.5%), and government rose by over 200 jobs, or 3.2%.

The 0.3% rise in payroll jobs between February and March was about typical for the MSA and consistent with the dropping unemployment rate.

By Ron Daws

Central and Northwest Minnesota

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990
REGION 1	42,426	41,079	39,930	4,617	5,275	4,278	9.8	11.4	9.7
Kittson	2,534	2,411	2,393	301	303	264	10.6	11.2	9.9
Marshall	4,622	4,444	4,414	985	1,143	951	17.6	20.5	17.7
Norman	3,544	3,450	3,356	355	385	358	9.1	10.0	9.6
Pennington	6,547	6,296	6,189	986	1,099	736	13.1	14.9	10.7
Polk	14,578	14,282	13,861	1,171	1,401	1,206	7.4	8.9	8.0
Red Lake	1,578	1,445	1,412	343	416	372	17.9	22.4	20.9
Roseau	9,023	8,751	8,334	476	528	391	5.0	5.7	4.5
REGION 2	30,532	29,488	29,104	3,285	3,900	3,204	9.7	11.7	9.9
Beltrami	16,498	15,946	15,581	1,281	1,508	1,238	7.2	8.6	7.4
Clearwater	3,160	3,052	3,092	888	1,068	871	21.9	25.9	22.0
Hubbard	6,354	6,104	6,230	750	907	753	10.6	12.9	10.8
Lake of Woods	2,083	2,007	1,873	80	75	73	3.7	3.6	3.8
Mahnomen	2,437	2,379	2,328	286	342	269	10.5	12.6	10.4
REGION 4	97,888	95,113	92,458	7,173	8,971	7,071	6.8	8.6	7.1
Becker	13,297	12,947	12,661	1,302	1,562	1,302	8.9	10.8	9.3
Clay	25,395	24,797	24,060	1,487	1,777	1,348	5.5	6.7	5.3
Douglas	15,763	15,305	14,638	1,032	1,113	978	6.1	6.8	6.3
Grant	2,946	2,893	2,807	294	318	322	9.1	9.9	10.3
Otter Tail	25,093	24,232	23,591	2,024	2,980	2,053	7.5	10.9	8.0
Pope	4,710	4,579	4,507	447	530	446	8.7	10.4	9.0
Stevens	5,273	5,125	4,961	236	307	259	4.3	5.7	5.0
Traverse	2,026	1,952	1,969	146	182	168	6.7	8.5	7.9
Wilkin	3,386	3,283	3,245	205	222	195	5.7	6.3	5.7
REGION 5	58,538	56,725	55,647	6,587	7,620	6,103	10.1	11.8	9.9
Cass	8,223	7,855	7,614	1,210	1,377	1,159	12.8	14.9	13.2
Crow Wing	21,112	20,421	20,089	1,829	2,137	1,729	8.0	9.5	7.9
Morrison	13,546	13,178	13,102	1,793	2,190	1,663	11.7	14.3	11.3
Todd	10,746	10,440	10,183	1,255	1,295	1,041	10.5	11.0	9.3
Wadena	4,911	4,831	4,659	510	621	511	9.4	11.4	9.9
REGION 6E	55,820	54,306	51,923	3,834	4,264	3,623	6.4	7.3	6.5
Kandiyohi	21,033	20,292	19,430	1,200	1,292	1,000	5.4	6.0	4.9
McLeod	17,001	16,607	16,111	958	1,107	948	5.3	6.2	5.6
Meeker	8,898	8,702	8,179	1,046	1,169	881	10.5	11.8	9.7
Renville	8,888	8,705	8,203	630	696	794	6.6	7.4	8.8
REGION 7E	50,855	49,444	49,217	5,773	6,611	5,487	10.2	11.8	10.0
Chisago	14,019	13,654	13,692	1,530	1,726	1,487	9.8	11.2	9.8
Isanti	11,870	11,561	11,594	1,119	1,249	1,006	8.6	9.8	8.0
Kanabec	5,281	5,126	5,181	839	916	867	13.7	15.2	14.3
Mille Lacs	10,227	9,929	9,490	984	1,134	872	8.8	10.3	8.4
Pine	9,458	9,174	9,260	1,301	1,586	1,255	12.1	14.7	11.9
REGION 7W	129,033	127,428	125,318	10,861	11,943	9,996	7.6	8.6	7.4
Benton	15,229	15,110	14,763	1,219	1,442	1,186	7.4	8.7	7.4
Sherburne	18,716	18,569	18,143	1,691	2,096	1,542	8.3	10.1	7.8
Stearns	62,620	62,127	60,701	4,627	4,797	4,374	6.9	7.2	6.7
Wright	32,468	31,622	31,711	3,124	3,608	2,894	8.8	10.2	8.4
St. Cloud MSA	96,565	95,806	93,607	7,536	8,335	7,102	7.2	8.0	7.1

St. Cloud MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	Employment			% Change From	
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	77,559	78,774	76,887	-1.5	0.9
Goods Producing	16,757	16,870	16,800	-0.7	-0.3
Construction and Mining	2,327	2,435	2,926	-4.4	-20.5
Manufacturing	14,430	14,435	13,874	0.0	4.0
Durable Goods	8,270	8,281	8,333	-0.1	-0.8
Nondurable Goods	6,160	6,154	5,541	0.1	11.2
Service Producing	60,802	61,904	60,087	-1.8	1.2
Transp., Comm., & Util.	3,923	3,883	3,746	1.0	4.7
Trade	22,820	23,129	23,047	-1.3	-1.0
Wholesale	3,579	3,625	3,646	-1.3	-1.8
Retail	19,241	19,504	19,401	-1.3	-0.8
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	2,503	2,541	2,435	-1.5	2.8
Services	18,438	18,419	17,734	0.1	4.0
Health	6,189	6,185	5,598	0.1	10.6
Other Services	12,249	12,234	12,136	0.1	0.9
Government	13,118	13,932	13,125	-5.8	-0.1

Unemployment Rates Settle Back To Levels Near Last March's

It may be that February's jobless rates were a statistical blip and not as high as the methodology portrayed them. Anyway, rates dropped back to levels similar to last March's. Still, many of them such as the St. Cloud MSA's at 7.2%, were as high as they've been since 1987.

Although total employment data shows a healthy over-the-year jump, based on payroll data, job creation in the St. Cloud MSA probably continues to slow, with less than 1% more jobs over the year. Last year, payroll jobs grew 1.6% from March-March.. During the last five years, growth averaged 4.9%.

The most dramatic over-the-year gains were the more than 600 nondurable goods producing workers, over 700 service workers, and nearly 200 transportation/public utility workers. Those gains, however, were largely counteracted by the 600 fewer workers in construction/mining.

Not since 1985 has the construction/mining job level been this low (2,327) during March. Services, conversely, has steadily and swiftly generated new jobs in the MSA since at least 1974, as far back as our series goes. Services, in fact, generated 83.7% additional jobs between 1980 and 1990 compared to retail trade's 59.1% more.

The 1.5% drop in the MSA's payroll jobs over the month is typical of a slowing economy. The problem was construction/mining, which rather than hire seasonal workers, let go over 100 of them. Government's 800 worker drop due to the spring school break should be temporary.

By Ron Daws

Northeast Minnesota

Unemployment Rates Drop Over The Month To Roughly Equal Last Year's

Region 3's unemployment rate dropped from 9.2% in February to 7.8% in March, the same rate as last March. Koochiching County's high rate could be due to the major completion of construction at the Boise Cascade plant, and Lake county's rate may be due to mining layoffs. Duluth performed even better, dropping from 6.9% in February to 5.8% in March. Last March Duluth's rate was 6.1%. These low rates could be the result of random sampling error in the methodology, so it will be interesting to see if the trend is continued next month.

Coupled with low jobless rates, employment in the region grew more than usual over the month. Often it drops between February and March.

Perhaps a better indicator of Duluth's job growth is its nonfarm payroll series. Growth in this series has slowed to one percent over the year. Last March the gain from the previous March was 2.5%, and the gain during the past five years has averaged 4.1%. This is not the rosy picture painted by the total employment figures (resident based). Duluth still performed somewhat better than the state average which increased not at all.

It was the goods producers that faltered. There were 9% fewer nondurable goods producing jobs in Duluth this March than a year ago, and 5.8% fewer construction/mining jobs. Together they lost 326 workers. It was the first March-March nondurable goods job loss since 1983-1984. Durable goods jobs, conversely, rose 48 (3.1%) over the year, and health service jobs jumped by 482 (8.3%).

Since February, the number of nonfarm payroll jobs in Duluth remained unchanged. Usually, by March the economy is coming out of the winter doldrums, and there is a small net job increase. Excepting for the loss of 53 durable goods producing jobs (-3.3%), there was little movement among Duluth's major industry sectors over the month.

By Ron Daws

Labor Force Estimates

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemp. Rate		
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990
REGION 3	139,730	135,075	133,587	11,825	13,609	11,364	7.8	9.2	7.8
Aitkin	5,216	5,062	4,887	691	839	702	11.7	14.2	12.6
Carlton	12,126	11,829	11,616	1,215	1,390	1,150	9.1	10.5	9.0
Cook	2,551	2,469	2,385	200	250	254	7.3	9.2	9.6
Itasca	16,832	16,331	15,919	1,696	2,013	1,967	9.2	11.0	11.0
Koochiching	8,623	8,410	9,709	889	877	580	9.3	9.4	5.6
Lake	4,238	4,123	3,999	571	699	361	11.9	14.5	8.3
St. Louis	90,144	86,851	85,072	6,563	7,541	6,350	6.8	8.0	6.9
City of Duluth	39,135	37,705	36,933	2,388	2,795	2,397	5.8	6.9	6.1
Balance St. Louis	51,009	49,146	48,139	4,175	4,746	3,953	7.6	8.8	7.6

Duluth & Duluth Superior MSA Nonfarm Wage & Salary Jobs

Industry	DULUTH Employment			% Change From		DULUTH SUPERIOR Employment			% Change From	
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary	49,208	49,194	48,744	0.0	1.0	97,814	97,267	94,915	0.6	3.1
Goods Producing	5,367	5,398	5,645	-0.6	-4.9	16,894	16,755	16,467	0.8	2.6
Mining	Small, combined with construction					5,377	5,215	5,247	3.1	2.5
Construction	1,368	1,388	1,452	-1.4	-5.8	2,940	3,020	2,891	-2.6	1.7
Manufacturing	3,999	4,010	4,193	-0.3	-4.6	8,577	8,520	8,329	0.7	3.0
Durable Goods	1,574	1,627	1,526	-3.3	3.1	4,598	4,627	4,306	-0.6	6.8
Nondurable Goods	2,425	2,383	2,667	1.8	-9.1	3,979	3,893	4,023	2.2	-1.1
Service Producing	43,841	43,796	43,099	0.1	1.7	80,920	80,452	78,448	0.6	3.2
Transp., Comm., & Util.	2,869	2,859	2,887	0.3	-0.6	5,781	5,754	5,548	0.5	4.2
Trade	11,644	11,772	11,510	-1.1	1.2	23,898	23,860	23,567	0.2	1.4
Wholesale	1,884	1,884	1,862	0.0	1.2	3,838	3,850	3,828	-0.3	0.3
Retail	9,760	9,888	9,648	-1.3	1.2	20,060	20,010	19,739	0.2	1.6
Finan., Insur., & Re. Estate	1,951	1,951	1,926	0.0	1.3	3,272	3,255	3,170	0.5	3.2
Services	15,037	14,895	14,460	1.0	4.0	25,284	25,008	24,150	1.0	4.6
Health	6,296	6,183	5,814	2.2	8.3	10,212	10,001	9,482	2.1	7.7
Other Services	8,741	8,732	8,646	0.1	1.1	15,052	15,007	14,668	0.3	2.6
Government	12,340	12,319	12,316	0.2	0.2	22,705	22,575	22,015	0.6	3.1

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Minnesota Labor Market Review

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
Jobs and Training
Research & Statistics Office
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
(612) 296-6545

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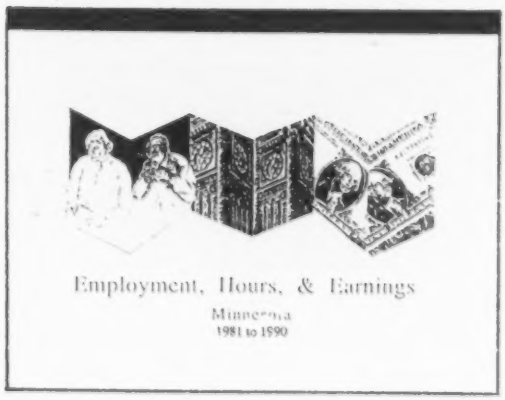
For Your Information

Two New Publications to be Released

Just in case you've ever wanted job counts by industry, plus average hours worked and earnings of production workers, we will be releasing two publications during May. One is *Employment, Hours and Earnings, Minnesota 1981 to 1990*, and the other is *Employment , Hours and Earnings, Minneapolis-St. Paul Area 1981 to 1990*. Both of these historical series are based on revised job counts developed from an employer survey. To request a copy, call (612) 296-6545.



The **Minnesota Labor Market Review** is published monthly (with expanded quarterly issues) by the Research and Statistics Office of the Minnesota Department of Jobs and Training.

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